

CLAIMS

Therefore, having thus described the invention, at least the following is claimed:

1 1. A system for providing an Integrated Governance program,
2 comprising:
3 a plurality of governance sources monitoring respective governance areas
4 within a business enterprise;
5 a plurality of governance databases, each database maintained by a respective
6 governance source;
7 at least one or more communication networks interconnecting the plurality of
8 governance databases; and
9 an integrated governance team reviewing data within the plurality of
10 governance databases to identify significant issues for the enterprise in the governance
11 areas.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the integrated governance team further
2 determines a plan, at an enterprise level, to address the significant issue across the
3 enterprise.

1 3. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a database of the integrated governance team for storing a summary of
3 governance information from the plurality of governance databases.

1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of governance sources
2 include at least one from the group of an audit department, a security department, an
3 ethics department, a business controls department, and a compliance department.

1 5. An Integrated Governance method, comprising the steps of:
2 individually summarizing data from a plurality of governance databases
3 located on a business network of a business enterprise;
4 reviewing the data at an enterprise level to identify one or more significant
5 issues to the business enterprise;
6 determining a plan, at the enterprise level, to address the significant issue
7 across the business enterprise; and
8 communicating the plan to each operational unit within the business
9 enterprise.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the plan involves developing business
2 controls for addressing the significant issue.

1 7. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of:
2 implementing the plan within each operational unit of the business enterprise.

1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:
2 tracking the progress of the plan in addressing the significant issue within each
3 operational unit.

1 9. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of:
2 analyzing, at the enterprise level, each significant issue to ascertain a
3 respective cause of the significant issue.

1 10. The method of claim 5, wherein the plurality of governance databases
2 are maintained by a plurality of governance departments, the governance departments
3 including at least one from the group of an audit department, a security department, an
4 ethics department, a business controls department, and a compliance department.

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1 11. The method of claim 5, the individually summarizing step comprising:
2 electronically accessing each governance database containing governance data
3 for operational units of the enterprise; and
4 utilizing a person familiar with a particular governance database to complete a
5 template summarizing the governance data contained in the particular governance
6 database for the operational units.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the template includes areas for
2 providing details concerning the significant issue and the operational units affected by
3 the significant issue.

1 13. The method of claim 5, wherein the method is performed at periodic
2 intervals.

1 14. The method of claim 5, wherein significant issues include issues that
2 are new and issues that occur across multiple operational units.

1 15. The method of claim 5, the reviewing step comprising:
2 utilizing collective knowledge within the business enterprise to identify the
3 one or more significant issues.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the collective knowledge within the
2 business enterprise includes an understanding of current business practices of the
3 operational units.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the collective knowledge within the
2 business enterprise includes an understanding of recent legal matters concerning the
3 enterprise.

1 18. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of:
2 reviewing the data at the enterprise level to identify one or more issues that
3 occur within a domain of a single operational unit;
4 determining a strategy, at the single operational unit level, to address the one
5 or more issues that occur within the domain of the single operational unit;
6 communicating the strategy to each operational unit within the enterprise; and
7 monitoring the progress of the strategy, at an enterprise level.

1 19. A method for implementing an integrated governance program,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 forming an integrated governance team to identify problematic issues in
4 designated governance areas across a business enterprise, the integrated governance
5 team comprising members having knowledge of each of the designated governance
6 areas and of operational units within the enterprise;
7 compiling data from a plurality of databases that contain information regarding
8 the governance areas for a plurality of the operational units in the enterprise;
9 integrating together data from the plurality of databases to form a
10 comprehensive summary of governance information for the enterprise;
11 analyzing, as a team, the comprehensive summary to identify one or more
12 significant issues within the governance areas for the enterprise;
13 utilizing collective knowledge of the integrated governance team to uncover
14 the fundamental cause of the respective significant issue; and
15 forming, as a team, a comprehensive plan to address the fundamental cause of
16 the respective significant issue across the enterprise.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the compiling step is performed by
2 particular members familiar with the information contained in the databases.

1 21. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of:
2 communicating the plan to each of the operational units in the enterprise.

- 1 22. The method of claim 19, wherein the comprehensive plan involves
- 2 developing business controls for addressing the respective significant issue